

In the claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A process for preparing a lithium amide composition [[in which in a first step]] , comprising the steps of: (1) contacting lithium metal [[is brought into contact]] with ammonia to form lithium bronze; and [[in a second step the lithium bronze is reacted]] (2) reacting the lithium bronze with a 1,3-diene or an arylolefin in the presence of a solvent, thereby providing a lithium amide composition; wherein the temperature is maintained at or below the boiling point of ammonia.
2. **(currently amended)** [[A process according to Claim 1 wherein in the first step]] The process of claim 1, wherein the lithium metal is brought into contact with the ammonia by charging the ammonia to the lithium metal.
3. **(currently amended)** [[A process according to Claim 1 or 2]] The process of claim 1, wherein the 1,3-diene or arylolefin is butadiene, isoprene, piperylene, dimethylbutadiene, hexadiene, styrene, methyl styrene, divinylbenzene, naphthalene or anthracene.
4. **(currently amended)** [[A process according to Claim 3]] The process of claim 1, wherein the 1,3-diene or arylolefin is styrene, methyl styrene or divinylbenzene.
5. **(currently amended)** [[A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 4]] The process of claim 1, wherein the solvent is pentane, cyclopentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, toluene, xylene, cumene, ethyl benzene, tetralin, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2-methyl-THF, tetrahydropyran, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, dioxan, methyl-tert-butyl ether or glycol ether.
6. **(currently amended)** [[A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 5]] The process of claim 1, wherein the lithium metal is contacted with four to five molar equivalents of anhydrous ammonia [[per mole equivalent of lithium metal are present in the first step]].
7. **(currently amended)** [[A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 6]] The process of claim 1, wherein the temperature of both [[reaction]] steps is maintained between -33 and -78 °C [[, more preferably between -35 and -65 °C, and most preferably at -40 °C]].
8. **(currently amended)** [[A process according to any one of Claims 1 to 7]] The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of [[wherein excess ammonia is discharged]] removing

excess ammonia by distillation at reduced pressure at a temperature ~~[[of]]~~ between -33 and -78 °C; ~~[[and]]~~ wherein the ~~[[resulting]]~~ lithium amide composition ~~[[comprises]]~~ has a molar ratio of lithium amide ~~[[:]]~~ to ammonia greater than 1 : 0.5 (LiNH<sub>2</sub> : NH<sub>3</sub>) ~~[[, more preferably comprises a lithium amide : ammonia molar ratio greater than 1 : 1 (LiNH<sub>2</sub>: NH<sub>3</sub>)]]~~.

9. **(currently amended)** A lithium amide composition ~~[[obtainable]]~~ prepared by ~~[[a]]~~ the process of claim 1 ~~[[according to any one of Claims 1 to 8]]~~.

10. **(new)** The process of claim 1, wherein the temperature of both steps is maintained between -35 and -65 °C.

11. **(new)** The process of claim 1, wherein the temperature of both steps is maintained at -40 °C.

12. **(new)** The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of removing excess ammonia by distillation at reduced pressure at a temperature between -33 and -78 °C; wherein the lithium amide composition has a molar ratio of lithium amide to ammonia greater than 1 : 1 (LiNH<sub>2</sub> : NH<sub>3</sub>).

13. **(new)** The process of claim 3, wherein the solvent is pentane, cyclopentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, toluene, xylene, cumene, ethyl benzene, tetralin, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2-methyl-THF, tetrahydropyran, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, dioxan, methyl-tert-butyl ether or glycol ether.

14. **(new)** The process of claim 4, wherein the solvent is pentane, cyclopentane, hexane, heptane, octane, cyclohexane, toluene, xylene, cumene, ethyl benzene, tetralin, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2-methyl-THF, tetrahydropyran, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, dioxan, methyl-tert-butyl ether or glycol ether.

15. **(new)** The process of claim 3, wherein the temperature of both steps is maintained between -33 and -78 °C.

16. **(new)** The process of claim 4, wherein the temperature of both steps is maintained between -33 and -78 °C.

17. **(new)** The process of claim 13, wherein the temperature of both steps is maintained between -33 and -78 °C.

18. (new) The process of claim 14, wherein the temperature of both steps is maintained between -33 and -78 °C.
19. (new) The lithium amide composition of claim 9, wherein the lithium amide composition has a molar ratio of lithium amide to ammonia greater than 1 : 0.5 ( $\text{LiNH}_2$  :  $\text{NH}_3$ ).
20. (new) The lithium amide composition of claim 9, wherein the lithium amide composition has a molar ratio of lithium amide to ammonia greater than 1 : 1 ( $\text{LiNH}_2$  :  $\text{NH}_3$ ).